

I. AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter the amendments to claims 32 and 40, as shown below.

Please enter new claim 44, as shown below.

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid comprising a hexameric nucleotide sequence of the formula 5'-Purine-Purine-[Y]-[Z]-Pyrimidine-Pyrimidine-3' or 5'-Purine-Purine-[Y]-[Z]-poly(Pyrimidine)-3';

where Y is any naturally occurring or synthetic nucleotide except cytosine and Z is any naturally occurring or synthetic nucleotide, wherein when Y is not guanosine or inosine, Z is guanosine or inosine, wherein the nucleic acid is 6 nucleotides to 45 nucleotides in length, and wherein the nucleic acid is conjugated to an autoantigen or an autoantibody ~~a peptide~~; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 32 where Y is guanosine or inosine.

34. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 32 where Y is inosine and Z is inosine or guanosine.

35. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 32 where Y is guanosine and Z is guanosine or an unmethylated cytosine.

36. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid comprising a hexameric nucleotide sequence AAGGTT, wherein the nucleic acid is 6 nucleotides to 45 nucleotides in length, and wherein the nucleic acid is conjugated to a peptide; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 32, wherein said nucleic acid comprises one or more phosphate backbone modifications.

39. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 38, wherein the phosphate backbone comprises a phosphorothioate linkage.

40. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- a) a nucleic acid comprising a hexameric nucleotide sequence selected from AGGGCT, GAGGTT, AAGCTT, AGGCTC, GAGCTT, GGGCTT, AAGCTC, AGGCTC, GAGCTC, GGGCTC, AAGCCC, AGGCCC, GAGCCC, GGGCCC, AGGCCT, GAGCCT, GGGGCT, TTGCAA, AATGTT, ~~GGGGTT~~, GAGGTC, and AAGCCC, wherein the nucleic acid is 6 nucleotides to 45 nucleotides in length; and
- (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

41. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 38, wherein the nucleic acid is conjugated to a peptide.

42. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein said nucleic acid comprises one or more phosphate backbone modifications.

43. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the phosphate backbone comprises a phosphorothioate linkage.

44. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid is conjugated to an autoantigen or an autoantibody.